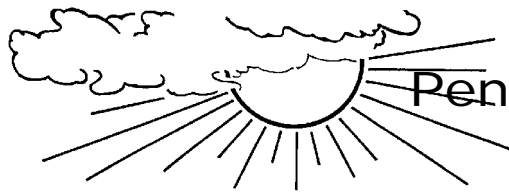




United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Pennsylvania: Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 23, 2000

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Very Poor Week for Field Work: It was a cool and wet week across the Commonwealth. There were 1.9 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent short, 57 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus. Activities included spring plowing, planting oats, potatoes, field corn and sweet corn; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling manure; caring for livestock; spraying herbicides and pruning trees.

Crops: Oats planting continued to progress from last week. Oats was emerging in most districts and was in good to excellent condition. Corn and potato planting began in some areas, but it was too cold and wet to plant in most areas. The wheat and barley acreage was heading slightly ahead of the average. Alfalfa and other hay crops were growing well and in good conditions. Tobacco planting was 2 percent behind last year and 1 percent ahead of the five-year average. Spring plowing was 46 percent complete, 2 percent behind last year and four percent behind the five-year average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions improved from last week and were mostly in good to excellent conditions. Some areas were showing good growth and color but was too wet to graze on. Pasture was rated 55 percent good to excellent, compared to 54 percent the previous week.

Fruit & Vegetables: Peaches, cherries and apples continue to progress around the state. Dormant sprays have been applied in some areas to prevent blooming. Vegetable farmers are beginning to plant sweet corn, cabbage, onions lettuce and radishes. Farmers were waiting for soil to dry to begin more planting.

U.S. As Of April 16, 2000: Below-normal temperatures slowed winter wheat development and hindered emergence of other small grains in the Great Plains and eastern Corn Belt. Field work was delayed by snow and rain in parts of the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley, but the precipitation improved soil moisture supplies. Despite the cold weather, fieldwork and planting gained momentum in the Corn Belt, especially along and near the Ohio and Missouri River Valleys. Planting also gained momentum in the lower Mississippi Valley, although scattered showers limited progress in some areas. Planting was delayed by cool weather and showers in the Southeast. Above-normal temperatures stimulated crop development in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest. Rain limited fieldwork along the northern Pacific Coast. Thirteen percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was at the heading stage or beyond, 5 percentage points ahead of this date last year and 1 week ahead of the 6-percent normal for this date. Above-normal temperatures accelerated development in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest. Wheat rapidly progressed to the heading stage in the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast, despite below-normal temperatures. Nine percent of the corn acreage was planted, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Dry weather aided progress in the Great Plains, southern Corn Belt, and Tennessee Valley, while cold weather deterred progress across the northern Corn Belt. Oats seeding advanced to 40 percent of intended acreage, well ahead of last year's rapid progress, and 25 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Dry weather aided progress in the Corn Belt. The barley acreage was 21 percent seeded, 5 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, and one week ahead of the 5-year average of 12 percent. Four percent of the crop was emerged, compared with 3 percent for both last year and the 5-year average for this date.

PA Crop Progress For Week Ending April 23, 2000

	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent			
Spring Plowing	46	44	48	50
Barley, Headed	10	1	0	8
Oats, Planted	48	28	46	47
Oats, Emerged	26	11	22	N/A
Tobacco Beds, Planted	98	95	100	97
Potatoes, Planted	10	0	15	11
Peaches, Pink Stage	98	84	71	59
Peaches, Full Bloom	86	72	51	35
Cherries, Pink Stage	97	62	67	56
Cherries, Full Bloom	91	42	46	38
Apples, Pink Stage	58	11	41	39
Apples, Full Bloom	49	1	14	16

N/A = Not available

PA Crop Condition For Week Ending April 23, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	2	12	65	21
Oats	0	4	25	63	8
Alfalfa, Stands	1	2	19	62	16
Timothy Clover, Stands	4	5	21	59	11
Pasture Conditions	3	3	39	41	14

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Weather Data For Week Ending April 23, 2000																		
Reporting Station	Weekly Temperature				Growing Degree Days From April 1				Rainfall - Values Are For A 24-Hour Period Ending 7:00 A.M., In Inches									
	High	Low	Avg	Dep From Norm	40 Degrees		50 Degrees		April							For Week	From April 1	
					Days	Dep From Norm	Days	Dep From Norm	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total	Total	Dep From Norm
Erie	63	39	48	1	161	48	33	33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.18	0.07	1.36	5.83	3.34
Warren	72	41	51	4	173	92	44	44	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.00	1.04	0.48	0.06	1.72	6.41	3.71
Franklin	78	37	53	5	219	119	60	60	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.19	3.06	0.36
Clearfield	78	37	49	1	154	51	35	35	0.69	0.35	0.28	0.00	0.97	0.70	0.21	3.20	5.81	3.28
Pittsburgh	79	43	56	5	253	58	82	75	0.58	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.15	0.00	0.96	4.20	1.81
Rector	80	37	52	1	179	-16	47	40	0.27	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.60	0.16	1.76	4.87	2.48
Altoona	77	37	49	-3	201	35	51	42	0.14	0.16	0.48	0.00	0.66	0.52	0.33	2.29	4.43	2.03
Emporium	78	41	50	2	164	61	40	40	0.43	0.26	0.11	0.00	0.60	0.39	0.27	2.06	5.30	2.77
Wellsboro	74	37	46	1	120	77	22	22	0.03	0.58	0.25	0.00	0.32	0.41	0.03	1.62	5.16	3.32
State College	80	39	50	0	210	75	58	54	0.35	0.37	0.56	0.00	0.37	0.52	0.33	2.50	4.12	1.88
Williamsport	81	40	51	0	243	50	57	48	0.15	0.82	0.54	0.00	0.21	0.65	0.06	2.43	5.55	2.85
Selinsgrove	79	40	51	1	226	60	56	53	0.10	0.77	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.00	1.29	4.20	1.80
Montrose	74	35	47	2	153	105	32	32	0.00	1.11	0.95	0.00	0.06	0.36	0.00	2.48	7.20	4.42
Scranton	77	35	48	-2	222	61	66	64	0.00	0.60	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.54	0.00	1.19	4.01	1.70
Allentown	79	37	50	-1	252	53	78	66	0.04	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.09	0.22	1.90	4.36	1.44
Reading	81	39	52	1	291	103	92	83	0.05	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.05	0.96	3.16	0.26
Harrisburg	82	40	54	1	327	88	101	75	0.42	0.55	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.38	0.07	1.52	4.46	2.06
Biglerville	81	36	51	-3	259	46	67	42	0.42	0.58	0.47	0.00	0.09	0.70	0.12	2.38	4.53	2.00
Lancaster	78	39	52	-1	272	33	81	55	0.34	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	1.13	3.39	0.99
Philadelphia	77	41	52	-2	349	91	110	73	0.63	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.63	0.00	1.80	3.79	1.03

Weather Summary By: National Weather Service, State College, Pennsylvania

Crop Summary By: Eric Stout & Carrie Louey, Agricultural Statisticians, NASS

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